

Epping Forest District Council Representations to the Draft Local Plan Consultation 2016 (Regulation 18)

Stakeholder ID	4451	Name	nigel & nicola	hoy
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Date	11/12/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

We strongly object to the allocation of 1580 new houses in North Weald & surrounding areas as part of the EFDC draft local plan. The proposed areas are within the Green Belt for a reason, to protect the village from sprawling over development. Development areas need to be found that are not within the metropolitan Green Belt, ideally brownfield sites. Taking these areas out of the Green Belt will only set a precedent for the Green Belt as a whole to be diminished, thus destroying the character & openness of our beautiful countryside. The Green Belt is there to protect the countryside around towns & villages from the exact nature of this local plan, how can it even be legal? We do not believe that these proposed homes will be affordable for local people & that there is not the demand for this quantity of housing for people already living in this area. To use the airfield as an employment site is only to encourage people from outside the area. The south east is already vastly overpopulated & the council should encourage the government to build new employment sites in areas of the country that have high un-employment & are less populated, where housing needs can be fulfilled with existing dwellings & new developments in less densely populated areas. The airfield is a site of historic importance & has listed status, this gives it the right to be protected against this proposed development. Local residents have stood firm in the past rejecting & lobbying against previous proposals to develop this site. People lost their lives during the Second World War to protect our country from this airfield & it should be protected. Currently, the transport infrastructure in this area can not cope with the amount of traffic, particularly the route to Chelmsford on the A414 & the routes into Epping from North Weald & Harlow, & all routes to M11 Junction 7 during rush hour times. There are already too many commuters trying to travel to London via the tube at Epping & subsequently it is impossible to park in Epping after 7.15am, to leave a car & to be able to travel into London. The proposed new housing is likely to bring more commuters to these routes as higher paid workers working in London are more likely to be able to afford to purchase these new houses, similarly using their cars to get to the M11 Junction 7 to go into London & on the A414 to Chelmsford/Hertford. In addition, the surrounding 'country' roads are already being used as rat runs during peak times to avoid heavy traffic. Many of these roads are unsuitable for large numbers of cars/ large lorries (too narrow & un-maintained by the Council currently thus making them dangerous with the amount of potholes appearing on a weekly basis.) How will the Council manage to maintain these highways with at least twice the amount of traffic from North Weald when the roads are not maintained sufficiently at present? There is no guaranteed provision for further GP surgeries or another primary school within the proposed plan. St. Andrew's primary school is currently preparing to take on a higher capacity of students (doubling its size). However no provision has been made for the increase in traffic for pick up/ drop off of pupils or for parking. No provision for infrastructure was provided for this school expansion & similarly how can we be assured that suitable & adequate infrastructure will be provided as part of the proposed development? The Limes Medical Centre is already overstretched with the new housing estates

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local to it. It is impossible to get a routine appointment with a preferred doctor within a month. With no proposed new GP surgeries how will the influx of potentially over 6000 new residents be cared for? We have been subjected to travellers using land at Bluemans Farm, west of Tylers Green illegally in the past...Redacted... Who would choose to buy the houses that surround a travellers site or do the proposers of this local plan intend to move into these new dwellings themselves? The existence of a travellers site in this location is likely to encourage members of the existing community to leave. Much of our growing population is due to immigration to the UK during our membership of the EU. With the UK leaving the EU, it seems prudent that the Government reviews its strategy for housing, to see if this level of housing is still required, particularly where it would be detriment to the Green Belt. The Green Belt was introduced specifically to prevent development such as this proposal. As supporters of the principles of the Green Belt, we strongly object to the proposed developments for North Weald & the surrounding areas.